# PART II Tactical Operations

### **QUARTERING PARTIES**

#### COMPOSITION

After the commander establishes the quartering party, the platoon leader/PSG sends the designated NBC tank (Tank 2) or two personnel (PSG's gunner and the loader from the NBC tank) with the quartering party.

### **EQUIPMENT**

Special equipment requirements for the quartering party include the following:

- Personal weapon and/or crew-served weapon, as applicable.
   (NOTE: This may include the M240 machine gun dismount kit.)
- Load-bearing equipment (LBE), Kevlar helmet, and protective mask.
- DR-8/RL-39
- WD-1 communication wire.
- TA-1 or TA-312 (two pieces). (NOTE: Preparations also cover radio frequencies and applicable reporting procedures.)
- Signal flags.
- Engineer tape.
- · U-shaped pickets.
- Flashlights with colored lenses.
- · Chemical lights.
- · NBC monitoring/marking equipment.
- MOPP 4 equipment (unless specified otherwise).

## **ACTIVITIES**

Quartering party activities include the following:

- Conducting communications checks, including FM frequencies.
- Reporting arrival at the site and providing updated information.
- · Assisting in assembly area reconnaissance.
- Improving and marking entrances, exits, and internal routes.
- · Marking obstacles and mines.

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· Conducting radiological survey of routes and site using M256.

- · Selecting platoon position and tentative vehicle positions.
- · Maintaining surveillance and security of the assembly area.

**NOTE:** If the location designated for the assembly area is unsatisfactory,

the 1SG or quartering party OIC/NCOIC report the situation to the commander and request permission to find a new location.

NOTE: In a digitally equipped platoon, the quartering party can use the digital system (such as FBCB2) to send information back to the company/platoon concerning potential problem areas, such as locations of enemy forces, contaminated areas, and obstacles.

## **ASSEMBLY AREAS**

#### **MOVEMENT**

The platoon conducts tactical movement to the RP, links up with the platoon guide, and follows his instructions to the assembly area.

### **OCCUPATION**

Upon reaching the assembly area, the platoon occupies its positions using the procedures for hasty occupation of a BP. The following table lists steps the platoon takes in occupying the assembly area. (**NOTE:** The platoon also begins to perform its priorities of work.)

STEP	ACTION – Occupy an assembly area
1	Follow directions from the guide and move into marked vehicle positions (using ground guides as necessary).
2	Orient weapon systems to cover sectors of responsibility; establish and maintain local security.
3	Following proper cool-down procedures, shut down engines simultaneously.
4	Designate TRPs, trigger lines, and disengagement criteria/plan.
5	Quartering party briefs the platoon leader on the organization of the assembly area.
6	Keep commander informed of status of the assembly area.

### **LOCAL SECURITY**

The platoon leader establishes local security as specified in the OPORD, using procedures listed in the following table.

STEP	ACTION – Local security
1	Establish OPs (as necessary) and conduct reconnaissance IAW commander's guidance.
2	Establish sectors of fire and coordinate with adjacent units to ensure overlapping fields of fire.
3	Reduce dead space to a minimum by emplacing hasty obstacles and plotting areas for indirect fire.
4	Maintain radio listening silence IAW OPORD/FRAGO.
5	Camouflage vehicles and equipment.
6	Establish wire communications.
7	Enforce noise, light, and litter discipline.
8	Develop sketch cards (including digital versions for IVIS/FBCB2).

### **PRIORITIES OF WORK**

Priorities of work are listed by position in the following discussion. (**NOTE:** Some tasks are performed simultaneously.) Following the position lists is an example platoon timeline (page 24).

## Platoon leader priority of work

- Position tanks.
- · Designate sectors of fire for each tank.
- Designate REDCON level based on the commander's guidance.
- Direct TCs to shut down engines simultaneously.
- Coordinate with adjacent units.
- Check vehicle slant (operational status).
- Complete platoon fire plan and submit it to company/troop CP within 30 minutes.

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- · Develop and implement obstacle plan.
- Develop and implement rest plan.
- · Supervise attachments.
- Maintain OPSEC and surveillance of engagement area.
- Report "ESTABLISHED" to company/troop CP.

## **PSG** priority of work

- · Establish local security and position OPs.
- Establish wire communications (hot loop).
- · Supervise camouflage of tanks and assembly area.
- Compile and report status of personnel/sensitive items.
- Emplace M-8/M-22 alarms.
- Ensure PMCS are completed; submit DA Form 5988E as needed.
- Ensure prepare-to-fire checks and boresighting are completed.
- Submit resupply requests.
- Ensure PCCs/PCIs are completed.

## TC priority of work

- · Position the tank.
- · Verify TRPs and sector of fire.
- · Conduct boresighting and zeroing of weapon systems.
- Ensure established priorities are accomplished.
- Coordinate with vehicles to the left and right.

## Gunner priority of work

- Complete tank sector sketch and submit to platoon leader within 15 minutes.
- Conduct prepare-to-fire check of the fire control system.
- Maintain security (from the TC's position).
- Monitor radio/FBCB2.

## **Driver priority of work**

- Conduct necessary after-operations maintenance; submit DA Form 5988E for automotive, communications, and weapon systems prior to LOGPAC operations.
- · Camouflage tank.
- · Reconnoiter routes into and out of assembly area.

## Loader priority of work

- · Set radio to low power.
- Employ M-8/M-22 alarms (NBC tank).
- Emplace wire to platoon leader's tank.
- Emplace wire for hot loop.
- · Assist with maintenance operations.
- · Check load plan.
- Conduct rearm/resupply operations.

### **SAMPLE PLATOON TIMELINE**

The following chart shows an example of a platoon timeline for assembly area operations. The platoon leader can adapt the timeline format to fit his unit's operational requirements.

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Sample Platoon Timeline		
Event	Time	Personnel
	(Start and end time of event)	(Person responsible for the event)
Issue platoon OPORD.		
Mark vehicle firing positions (P-A-S).		
Proof vehicle firing positions.		
Verify vehicle/section sectors of fire.		
Build platoon EA:		
<ul><li>Emplace TRPs in EA.</li></ul>		
<ul> <li>Emplace platoon protective obstacles.</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Mark trigger lines in the EA.</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Plan indirect-fire targets with FIST.</li> </ul>		
Conduct platoon rehearsals:		
Occupy BP.		
<ul> <li>Move on routes to alternate / supplementary firing positions.</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Move on routes to alternate / supplementary BPs.</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Conduct CSS rehearsals.</li> </ul>		
Conduct actions on contact.		
Attend company rehearsals.		
Conduct prep-to-fire checks.		
Conduct boresighting procedures.		
Conduct coordination with adjacent unit.		
Move to hide position.		
Initiate rest plan.		
Conduct vehicle and weapons maintenance.		
Conduct stand-to procedures.		
Receive intelligence updates.		
Occupy BP.		
Defend NLT.		

Example platoon timeline.

### TACTICAL ROAD MARCH

The platoon conducts tactical road marches to move long distances and position itself for future operations. The illustration on the following page provides several types of information applicable during the tactical road march.

#### **MARCH SPEED**

If the platoon is marching independently or if all vehicles within the march are capable of maintaining the prescribed interval, the march speed is 25 mph and the catch-up speed 30 mph unless otherwise designated in the OPORD.

#### **ROAD MARCH CHECKLIST**

The actions and considerations listed in the table on pages 27 and 28 provide a comprehensive guide for the platoon as it conducts the road march. The platoon leader should ensure that all crewmen are familiar with the elements of the checklist.

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actical Road March:		
3 4	1	2
Order of March and	d Gun Tube	Orientation
March Speed (mph	) Day/Lim	ited visibility
	March	Catch Up
Open Road	25/20	30/25
Built Up Areas	20/15	25/20
Interstate/Autobahn	30/25	40/30
Interval (meters) Day/Limited visibility		
Open Road		100/50
Built Up Areas		25/25
Interstate/Autobah	n	100/50

Tactical road march information.

STEP	ACTION – Road march checklist
1	Determine/report number of operational vehicles.
2	Top off fuel and other Class III products.
3	Upload ammunition and other Class V products.
4	Complete PMCS.
5	Test, zero, and boresight MILES equipment and weapon systems as applicable.
6	Complete prepare-to-fire checks.
7	Complete rollover and fire drills.
8	Specify time for platoon OPORD.
9	Complete reconnaissance.
10	Rehearse actions on contact (ambush/ground/air).
11	Rehearse actions at halts (scheduled/unscheduled).
12	Complete fire support plan.
13	Rehearse actions for mechanical breakdown.
14	Rehearse MEDEVAC/CASEVAC.
15	Tie down all loads.
16	Complete communications checks.
17	Inspect obstacle reduction kits.
18	Load and test PLGR units.
19	Load and test computers
20	Designate graphic control measures (rally points)
21	Identify critical points.
22	Ensure digital connectivity with all vehicles and CP.
23	Send road march overlay to all TCs.

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24	Designate march order, movement technique, interval, and rate of march.
25	Test NVGs (including VVS-2) for proper operation.
26	If applicable, prepare for limited visibility operations, taking the following steps:
	<ul> <li>Mount chem lights or polarity tape on vehicles.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Specify the color identification of elements to the front and rear.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Check all night vision devices prior to movement.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Specify correct vehicle interval (normally 50 meters; variable according to road conditions and operational factors).</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Specify the correct rate of march (normally 20 mph, with catch-up speed of 25 mph; variable according to road conditions and operational factors).</li> </ul>

### **ACTIONS ON CONTACT**

In both offensive and defensive operations, contact occurs when any member of the platoon observes enemy personnel or vehicles, observes or receives direct or indirect fire, or encounters any situation that requires an active or passive response to the enemy. The following tables list actions the platoon will take when it encounters various types of enemy contact.

## Actions at an ambush

STEP	ACTION – Actions at an ambush
1	Return fire and attempt to fight through the ambush.
2	Report "CONTACT."
3	Find cover and/or move out of the kill zone.
4	Develop the situation; issue call for fire if necessary.
5	Send SPOTREP (voice) to higher headquarters.

## Actions in an air attack

STEP	ACTION – Actions in an air attack
1	Alert the rest of the platoon with a contact report.
2	Report "RED AIR" and direction of attack.
3	Deploy and seek covered and concealed positions with at least 100 meters between vehicles.
4	TCs, gunners, and loaders prepare to engage with machine gun and main gun fire on order.
5	Return/mass fire if attacked.
6	Send SPOTREP (voice) to higher headquarters.
7	On order, continue to move.

## Actions in an indirect fire attack

STEP	ACTION – Actions in an indirect fire attack
1	As applicable, button up, put on protective masks, and/or activate overpressurization system.
2	Increase speed to move out of impact area.
3	Report "OBSERVING INDIRECT, VICINITY (grid)."
4	Execute survivability moves, including formation changes.

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## **ACTIONS AT HALTS**

The following tables list actions the platoon will take during scheduled and unscheduled halts.

### Actions at scheduled halts

STEP	ACTION – Actions at a scheduled halt
1	Execute herringbone formation (off road if possible).
2	Assume and maintain designated REDCON status.
3	Establish and maintain local security and air guards.
4	Check sensitive items.
5	Recheck load plan stowage.
6	Perform short halt maintenance operations by section. Actions include the following: check fluid levels; check track and hubs; check ammunition storage; perform during- operation checks IAW technical manuals; conduct refueling IAW OPORD; and send status report to the commander.

## Actions at unscheduled halts

STEP	ACTION – Actions at an scheduled halt
1	Execute herringbone formation (off road if possible).
2	Assume and maintain designated REDCON status.
3	Establish and maintain local security, including air guards and sectors of scan.
4	Monitor radio/digital communications.
5	Determine cause of halt and report cause to the commander.

### **ACTIONS ON BREAK IN CONTACT**

The following tables list actions the platoon and its elements will take if contact is lost with the rest of the platoon or with higher headquarters.

STEP	ACTION – Actions on a break in contact
1	Recheck and verify unit location and route on map.
2	Increase march rate to catch-up speed.
3	If lost, stop and inform leader and/or commander.
4	If vehicle behind you is not visible, inform lead element.

### **ACTIONS ON MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN**

The following tables list actions the platoon and its elements will take if a vehicle becomes disabled during the road march.

STEP	ACTION – Actions on mechanical breakdown
1	Move off road, if possible, and display yellow flag.
2	Post road guides.
3	Establish and maintain local security.
4	Perform immediate troubleshooting.
5	If repair is possible, rejoin rear of march column.
6	If vehicle is NMC, wait for maintenance/recovery team.
7	Maintain communications; send SITREPs to platoon leader, PSG, and/or commander as necessary.

## **CONVOY ESCORT**

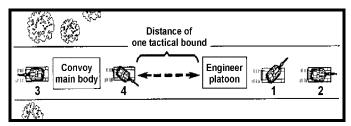
The tank platoon may be required to provide security and close-in protection to a convoy, either independently or as part of a larger unit. Escort missions are executed under control of the security force commander OPCON or attached to the convoy commander.

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If an independent escort is required, the tank platoon will be OPCON to the convoy commander, who will issue a complete OPORD to all vehicle commanders covering the following areas:

- Route of march, with a strip map or digital overlays with waypoints provided to aid drivers.
- · Number/type of vehicles.
- · Order of march.
- · Actions at halts.
- · Actions at breakdowns.
- · Actions on contact.
- · Chain of command.
- Signal information, including digital connectivity.
- Tactical disposition, including ROE/ROI.

The following illustration shows a platoon performing an independent convoy escort mission.



Independent convoy escort.

### **OBSERVATION POSTS**

OPs are essential in maintaining the platoon's OPSEC and in enhancing its battle space. They help to protect the platoon when long-range observation from a position is not possible. Depending on METT-TC factors, OPs can be employed either dismounted or mounted.

## **DISMOUNTED OPs**

A dismounted OP provides local security whenever the platoon occupies positions from which the terrain does not allow observation or early warning of enemy activities. The loaders from the wingman vehicles initially man the OP.

During periods of limited visibility, the TC of an OP vehicle can dismount a crewman to set up a listening post.

### **MOUNTED OPs**

Employment of a mounted OP allows the platoon leader to take advantage of the vehicle's communications, sights, and weapon systems. On M1A2 tanks, the gunner scans one avenue of approach with the gunner's primary sight and the TC scans another avenue with the CITV. As noted, the TC can dismount a crewman to set up a listening post in limited visibility.

## COORDINATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURES Selection/briefing

The following table lists steps the platoon leader or PSG takes in preparing for employment of the OP.

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COMPLETE?/ REMARKS	ACTION/CONSIDERATION – OP selection/briefing
	PSG designates OP personnel (normally, this will be the loaders from wingman tanks).
	<b>NOTE:</b> Each OP must be manned by a minimum of two soldiers.
	Platoon leader briefs OP personnel on the following:
	<ul> <li>Enemy and friendly situation.</li> <li>When and how to send reports.</li> <li>When and how to withdraw.</li> <li>Challenge and password.</li> <li>ROE/ROI for dealing with civilians.</li> <li>When they will be replaced.</li> </ul>
	Select suitable OP sites that have the following characteristics:
	<ul> <li>Clear fields of observation (overlap with adjacent OPs/units, if possible).</li> <li>Effective cover and concealment.</li> <li>Covered and concealed routes.</li> <li>Location that will not skyline OP personnel or attract enemy attention.</li> <li>Location within range of platoon small arms fire, if possible.</li> </ul>

## **EQUIPMENT**

The following table lists equipment OP personnel should have on hand.

ON HAND?/ REMARKS	ITEM OF EQUIPMENT – OP personnel
	Seasonal uniform with supplies (MRE/water) and appropriate MOPP gear.
	Individual weapon.
	Communications equipment (wire, TA-1/TA-312, flag set, flashlight, chem lights, and/or radio).
	Binoculars and night vision goggles.
	Compass and map.
	Paper and pen/pencil to make sector sketch.
	M8A1/M22 alarm (as directed by the commander and/or based on weather conditions).
	E-tool or shovel and mattock/pick.
	Rations (MREs) and water.

## **EMPLACEMENT/IMPROVEMENT**

The following chart lists steps that platoon members take in emplacing and improving the  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{OP}}.$ 

COMPLETE?/ REMARKS	ACTION – OP emplacement/improvement
	Leaders (platoon leader, PSG, or TCs) emplace OPs.
	As METT-TC factors allow, OP personnel improve the position, taking these steps:  • Establish communications (TA-1/TA-312).  • Camouflage OP and routes back to the platoon's position.  • Prepare a sector sketch.  • Dig in to provide cover from direct and indirect fires.  • Enforce light and noise discipline.

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## **PASSAGE OF LINES**

The tank platoon participates in a passage of lines, in which one unit moves through the stationary positions of another, as part of a larger force. If it is part of the stationary force, the platoon occupies defensive positions and assists the passing unit. If it is part of a passing unit, the platoon executes tactical movement through the stationary unit. The passage may be forward or rearward, depending on whether the passing unit is moving toward (forward) or away from (rearward) an enemy unit or area of operations. Refer to FM 3-20.15 for detailed procedures.

The commander normally conducts all necessary reconnaissance and coordination for the passage. At times, he may task the XO, 1SG, or a platoon leader to conduct liaison duties for reconnaissance and coordination.

#### **INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

The following table lists information to be exchanged and/or coordinated for the passage of lines.

COMPLETE?/ REMARKS	INFORMATION TO BE EXCHANGED – Passage of lines
	Unit designation and composition; type and number of passing vehicles; markings for lead/trail vehicles.
	Passing units' arrival time(s).
	Location of attack positions/assembly areas.
	Stationary unit's mission and plan (including OPs and patrols).
	Enemy situation and known locations.
	Locations of stationary unit's obstacles and known enemy obstacles.
	Location of contact points, passage points, and passage lanes (primary and alternate).
	Applicable markings for vehicles (lead/trail) and passage lane entrances and exits.
	Supporting direct/indirect fires (including locations of fire support control measures).
	Guide requirements.
	Routes (primary and alternate).
	Order of march.
	Actions taken in event of enemy contact.
	NBC conditions.
	Locations of available CS and CSS assets.
	Communications information (to include FM radio primary, frequencies, digital data, and near and far recognition signals).
	Chain of command, including location of BHL.
	Support/recovery responsibility and procedures.
	Additional procedures for the passage.

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#### **EXECUTION**

The following table lists steps the platoon takes in executing the passage of lines.

NOTE: Before executing a passage of lines, digital platoons should receive updated digital operations overlays with graphic control measures. They should also update their FBCB2 address books.

COMPLETE?/ REMARKS	ACTION/CONSIDERATION – Passage of lines execution
	Display proper recognition signal.
	Orient gun tubes in the direction of the last known enemy contact (rearward).
	Platoon leader reports arrival time at the contact point to the commander.
	Move along passage lane without stopping in, blocking, or deviating from it.
	Follow directions from guides at all traffic control points.
	Platoon leader reports all graphic control measures and completion of the passage of lines to the commander via FM radio.

## **RELIEF IN PLACE**

A relief in place occurs when one unit assumes the mission of another unit. It may be accomplished during either offensive or defensive operations, preferably during periods of limited visibility. The relief in place requires detailed planning. OPSEC is critical. When time is available and the situation permits, the incoming platoon leader coordinates with the in-place platoon leader and conducts a reconnaissance to confirm details of the relief.

## **COORDINATION CHECKLIST**

The following table lists steps the platoon leader takes when the two units link up to coordinate the relief.

COMPLETE?/ REMARKS	ACTION - Relief in place linkup
	<ul> <li>Exchange necessary information:</li> <li>Location of all vehicles.</li> <li>Enemy situation and other pertinent intelligence.</li> <li>Friendly obstacles.</li> <li>Terrain analysis.</li> <li>Supporting fires.</li> <li>Digital links.</li> <li>Frequencies and call signs.</li> </ul>
	Coordinate/exchange the following:  Sketch cards/fire plans (with input for digital systems, if applicable).  Fire support during relief (normally supplied by relieved platoon until transfer of responsibility).  Turnover of obstacles.  Routes into/out of positions.  Guides (from relieved platoon).  Transfer of CSS.  Communications.  Sequence of relief.  Time of transfer of responsibility.

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## **RECONNAISSANCE**

After coordination is completed, the incoming platoon leader conducts reconnaissance of the area of operations before execution of the relief begins.

## **EXECUTION**

The following table lists procedures and considerations that the platoon leader must take into account in executing the relief.

COMPLETE?/ REMARKS	ACTION/CONSIDERATION – Relief in place execution
	Ideally, the relief is executed under limited visibility conditions.
	The relieving platoon moves to the assembly area behind the relieved platoon, but not so close that it will alert the enemy as to what is taking place.
	The relieving and relieved platoons use the same platoon and company/troop radio nets. The relieving platoon maintains radio listening silence during the relief (digital links are established IAW the OPORD).
	The relief is executed quickly and quietly, either by section or by individual vehicle. Both platoons maintain the highest level of security, including continuous overwatch of the EA.
	After responsibility is turned over to the relieving platoon, the relieved platoon moves to a rally point.
	The platoons report to higher headquarters as necessary. (Tank platoon reports completion of relief to the commander.)

## **OPERATIONS SECURITY (OPSEC)**

OPSEC entails all measures taken to deny the enemy information about the actions and intentions of friendly forces. OPSEC measures consist of countersurveillance and the various aspects of area security (INFOSEC, signal security, and physical security). Refer to FM 3-20.15 for detailed procedures.

### **COUNTERSURVEILLANCE**

The tank platoon uses the countersurveillance measures listed in the following table to protect against surprise, observation, and infiltration by enemy elements.

STEP	ACTION - Countersurveillance
1	Enforce noise, light, and litter discipline. Driver dims panel lights.
2	Use camouflage to best advantage. Driver and loader erect camouflage nets or use vegetation as camouflage.
3	Maintain effective concealment.
4	Use challenge and password.

## **AREA SECURITY**

Area security includes the following functions, which are covered in the following table:

- Information security (INFOSEC), the protection of all materials, both classified and unclassified, that may be of intelligence value to the enemy.
- Signal security, the protection of communications, primarily signals sent via FM radios (secure and nonsecure).
- Physical security, the protection of materiel and equipment.

STEP	ACTION – Area security	
INFORMA	INFORMATION SECURITY	
1	Ensure that soldiers do not put critical information in the mail.	
2	Before leaving an area, police it.	
3	Protect digital equipment against potential dangers.	
SIGNAL S	ECURITY	
1	Enforce effective net control measures.	
2	Employ proper radiotelephone procedures (RTP).	
3	Use the techniques of effective communications:	
	Minimize duration.	
	Minimize signature.	
	Know the system.	
	Use the proper format.	
PHYSICA	L SECURITY	
1	When stationary, employ antiintrusion devices (PEWS, trip flares).	
2	Maintain the prescribed REDCON status.	
3	Do not allow foreign nationals and unauthorized observers in or near the unit's area.	
4	Employ OPs to maintain surveillance on avenues of approach into the platoon's battle space.	

## OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS – TACTICAL MOVEMENT

The platoon normally executes tactical movement using the formation and movement technique specified in the company/troop OPORD. At all times, the platoon leader positions himself where he can best control the platoon.

### **FORMATIONS**

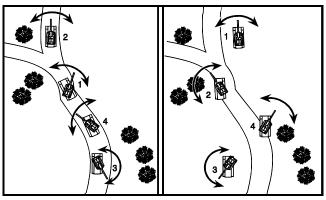
The platoon executes tactical movement using six basic formations:

- · Column.
- Staggered column.
- · Wedge.
- Vee.
- Echelon.
- Line.

In addition, the platoon uses the following protective formations when it must halt during tactical movement:

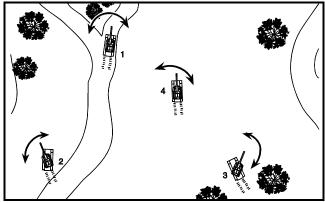
- · Coil.
- · Herringbone.

The formations of tactical movement are shown in the following illustrations. (NOTE: The position of the platoon leader in each formation will vary based on the tactical situation. As noted, the platoon leader always positions himself within the formation where he can best control the platoon.)

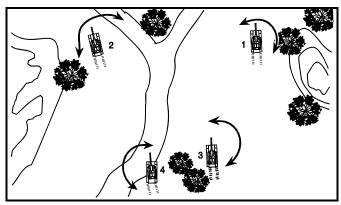


Column formation.

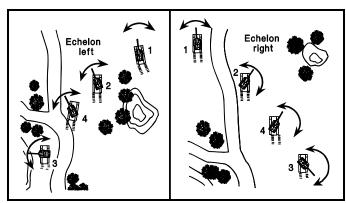
Staggered column formation.



Wedge formation.

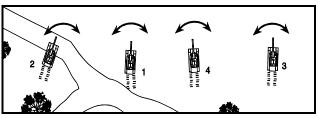


Vee formation.

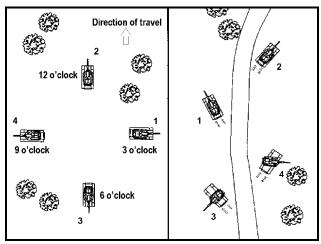


Echelon formation.

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Line formation.



Coil formation.

Herringbone formation.

## **MOVEMENT TECHNIQUES**

The platoon leader can employ one of three movement techniques.

## Traveling

Characterized by continuous movement of all elements and providing minimal security, the traveling technique is used when speed is desirable and contact is unlikely.